FEB. 26, 27 1998

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met on February 26 and February 27 in St. John's. A number of matters of importance and urgency to teachers were discussed. That meeting was followed by a meeting of Joint Council (Branch President and Executive) on February 27 and 28. In an effort to keep you more informed and up to date on the activities of Provincial Executive on your behalf, the following summary of major decisions made at the Executive meeting has been compiled.

Pensions/Negotiations
Executive will make a recommendation to Joint Council that the Negotiating Team be authorized to make and respond to proposals on pensions that could lead to a negotiated settlement on pensions as part of a full collective agreement. (This motion was approved by Joint Council). For more information, please contact Fred Andrews, Vice-President or Ed Hancock in Benefits and Economic Services.

Positions of Administrative Responsibility
Executive will collect statistics on the number of teachers who will be affected or have been affected by the Department Head protection under Article 36 of the Collective Agreement. Please contact Lloyd Hobbs, Benefits and Economic Services, for further information.)

Teachers in Private Schools
In light of the amended references to Private Schools within the new Schools Act, necessary steps will be taken to investigate the possibility of having teachers in private schools represented by NLTA as a bargaining agent. Please contact Ed Hancock, Benefits and Economic Services, for further information.

CTF Defence Fund
The NLTA will contribute $10,000 to the CTF Defence Fund with the specific provision that the monies be directed to the Ontario Teachers' Federation to help offset expenses related to the recent job action by Ontario teachers. Please contact President Brendan Doyle for further information.

Joint Council
The following amendments to the policy on Joint Council were presented to Joint Council for acceptance. (Joint Council approved these amendments.)

I. Preamble - Joint Council shall be a body consisting of the members of the Provincial Executive Council and Branch Presidents all of whom have equal voting rights and responsibilities.

II. Joint Council members are obligated to communicate to the membership the decisions, and the rationale for the decisions, made by Joint Council.

III. The format of a branch meeting called to present a recommendation of Joint Council to the membership will be determined at the local level. Opportunity should be provided for the presentation and discussion of all pertinent information regarding the issue.

IV.i) Members of Joint Council have a right to express dissenting views on any Association issue

in accordance with the NLTA By-Laws and Code of Ethics but not when acting in their official capacity as a Joint Council member.

ii) A Joint Council member who wishes to express a personal dissenting view of a decision of Joint Council shall not make the presentation of the Joint Council decision at his/her branch meeting where such decision is being relayed to the membership. Such presentation shall be made by the branch's Provincial Executive contact person or designate.

V. Communications between branches re Joint Council decisions shall be made at the branch president level and not through individual schools. Please contact Geralyn Costello, Assistant to the President, for further information.

STEM~Net
The NLTA/STEM~Net Teachers Committee has been reactivated for this year and will be dealing with issues concerning education, teachers, and professional development. Please contact Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer, for further information.

Pre-Retirement Seminars
For 1998-99, seven pre-retirement seminars will be held as follows: one in Gander, one in Corner Brook, one in Grand Falls-Windsor, one in Stephenville, and three in St. John's. Please contact Barbara Lewis, Benefits and Economic Services, for further information.

Awards
During a non-Convention year, NLTA award recipients will be presented with their awards at an occasion to be determined by the provincial President. Awards winners from both the non-Convention and Convention years will then be invited to the Biennial General Meeting where their awards will be recognized and presented. Please contact Geralyn Costello for further information.

Professional Development
Delegates selected for the CONTACT conference will be requested to submit a non-refundable $25 deposit towards their registration, such to be submitted to the NLTA CONTACT registrar within two weeks of notification of selection. Please contact Beverley Park or René Wicks in Professional Development for further information.

Equity Issues
The Equity Issues in Education Committee will sponsor an educational campaign wherein brochures and posters will be distributed to teachers and students in junior high schools on the topic of how to stop homophobia in the schools. Please contact Beverley Park in Professional Development for further information.

Curriculum Committee
An Ad Hoc Curriculum Committee will be established, chaired by a member of the Provincial Executive with terms of reference to be established by Table Officers, consistent with the NLTA Policy on Committees. Please contact Beverley Park or René Wicks in Professional Development for further information.

The next regular meeting of Executive is scheduled for April 24 and 25, 1998. For further information, please contact Geralyn Costello.